

ASCT

ASIAN STUDENTS CHRISTIAN TRUST

NEWS

February 2011
Issue 42

**Changing young lives, one at a time.
Caring and educating vulnerable
children in the Philippines.**

**WE NEED
YOUR
HELP**

**OUR VISION IS TO INCREASE
NUMBERS AT MANGO TREE
HOUSE AND GRAPEVINE. WE
WANT TO MAKE BEST USE OF
OUR FANTASTIC NEW
BUILDING AND HELP AS
MANY YOUNG PEOPLE AS
POSSIBLE. CAN YOU HELP US
TO ACHIEVE THIS?**

This special fundraising edition of our newsletter is packed with ideas and articles on helping us to raise money and how supporters and the ASCT children have already helped.

2011/12 will be a difficult financial year for ASCT as we struggle to raise funds in the current economic conditions. We do hope to increase our numbers by up to 70 additional children over a 4 or 5 year period starting in 2012, until we reach capacity.

This is an ambitious project which we plan to fund partially with grants but we need your help too. Please help us to make our dream a reality.



James Carlos Faustino

New year, new challenges

I don't know if you made New Year resolutions for 2011 but one that ASCT wishes to make is that we will take in and support more children. We have achieved so much over the past year with the help of committed and generous donors. We have taken children into all projects as well as having sold the old children's home and paid all our debts and loans. A great result, thank you.

Now we are at the stage of looking at 2011 plans and finances. Can we meet our expenditure? Can we take in the children we want to care for and change their lives for good? Can we pay our staff a fair rate?

These are our challenges for 2011 and beyond, and we are placing these before our board of trustees and you, our supporters.

We all know how tough things are for many. Prices for the basics of life are rising around the world and in some places even faster than here in the west. Food, fuel and transport are all costing us more as we try to look after the 300 children and young people in our programmes.

Investors face uncertain times yet there are returns on investment that don't show in bank accounts and portfolios. In lives changed, of children being educated, of new sponsor links with young people on the other side of the world, of seeing just how far some of our Pounds or Euros will go - where the cost of a month's child sponsorship is roughly the same as a reasonable meal out in the UK.

ASCT is working just as we always have done to educate and relieve poverty among some of the poorest young people in Manila. A selection of testimonies can be viewed on our website, but if we are to make the best use of our superb new facilities we want to offer our care to even more. Will you help? We have a target of an additional £30,000 this year.

There are so many things that can be done-

- ◆ Review your current giving
- ◆ Take on child sponsorship
- ◆ Tell your friends
- ◆ Support some of our fundraising events or
- ◆ Organise your own with our help
- ◆ Take part in a sponsored event
- ◆ Arrange for us to visit you and or your group, school , church
- ◆ Offer a one off special donation and gift aid.

So thank you for all you have helped us achieve in a busy and exciting 2010 and please help us to grow in 2011.

David Cox MBE
ASCT Chairman

Take a look at our fundraising calendar with some ideas of what you could do to help us throughout the year.

January Make gift tags from Christmas cards - sell them to friends and family.

February Have a cake sale at work, school or church.

March Spring Clean - then do a car boot sale - 50% of your profit could go to ASCT.

April Organise a street party for the royal wedding - ask for contributions to attend or have a raffle.

May Slim for the summer - do a controlled sponsored diet.

June Get your bucket and sponge out and charge your neighbours to clean their car.

July Take part or organise a sponsored walk/jog/run.

August Organise an auction of promises. Get your friends and family to give a few hours of gardening, ironing or DIY.

September Make and sell jams and chutneys.

October Collect money rather than sweets at Halloween - make sure people know what it is for!

November Save your 20p's in a sweet tube - it soon adds up

December Give your friends ASCT gift certificates and an ASCT card

If you are planning an event and would like some publicity or need a sponsorship form please contact Alison in the ASCT office. We would also like to hear all about your fundraising ideas and activities so that we can publicise in future newsletters.

How you have helped

St Paul's Church, Camberley, has been a long standing supporter of the work of ASCT, which was further strengthened by the FUNKY (Finished University - No Kids Yet) visit to the Philippines in 2010 when 7 members of the church spent two weeks giving Cashew tree school a radical facelift. This year, St Pauls decided to donate money from their Christingle services to ASCT and two other charities. Three services were planned on Christmas Eve and the turnout certainly supported the need. In total over 800 people attended to share in the joy of the birth of Christ and listen to the Christmas story, acted out by angels, wise men, sheppards and incredibly well behaved baby Jesus(s). We were delighted to receive £1036 to support our on going work in the Philippines. We would like to express our appreciation to all those who attended the services and gave so generously.



High Cross Church, Camberley have also been great supporters of ASCT. In

November they held an Autumn Fair from which they gave ASCT £555. We would also like to thank the members of High Cross Church Amateur Theatrical Society (HATS) who collected £730 from a retiring collection of their recent performances of the pantomime Sinbad.



Many thanks to members of the Queen St Christian Centre who organised a sponsored walk up Snowdon to raise £650 for Cashew Tree School.

The Bridge Church in St Ives, Cambridgeshire raised over £500 at a recent craft sale. Thank you particularly to Elizabeth and Rikki for their hard work.



And finally a big thank you to the Heatherside Badminton Club who manned a stall at the Heatherside Christmas Fair and raised £160.

We are very grateful to everyone that has raised money or donated to ASCT. Unfortunately we do not have the space to thank each and every one of you, but please be assured that every penny is very much appreciated and spent wisely.

Philippine funding efforts

The ASCT children are getting involved with raising money. Here is an article from Angel Mae Ganub about what they have been doing.

Last November 2010, British Women Association invited us to join their Artwork Calendar Contest. At first there were so many ideas in our minds because we wanted to win and for our designs to be chosen for their calendar. We were given the chance to show our talents through drawing. Five Mango students and two Grapevine students won with their drawings; Niña Pecho for the month of March, Christian Mila for April, Alben Mila for May, Raquel Pabua for June, Crystal Martin for August, Catherine Acosta for November and Fairchild Aranda for December. The winners were invited to the BWA Christmas Lunch at the British Ambassador residence at Makati last December 7, 2010. Catherine and Fairchild were able to attend as the others had school. It was full of fun and enjoyment as the children were awarded certificates for their participation in the BWA calendar. Also, this was the perfect time to sell the Christmas cards we made for a separate event and Catherine and Fairchild, along with the other attending winners, sold the Christmas cards using their most convincing powers to raise funds. They did fantastic work. The guests of the event were very impressed with our artistic work because it showed that the children of ASCF are very talented and creative. In simple ways, the children helped to raise funds for the foundation. We raised more than PhP14,000 (£200) for this event.

The fundraising did not end there. We were invited to the InterNations' Christmas party at the Manila Club last December 11, 2010. For party of this event we performed eight Christmas carols in front of the guests, four carols in two different sets. At first we were nervous but the excitement and fun filled our hearts as we wanted to give our best performance ever. Not only that, we also sold Christmas cards to add to the funds for ASCT. It was a wonderful night for us, even though we were tired from practicing the songs during all days of rehearsal, our hardwork paid off and all the nervousness was taken away. It was a great fulfillment for us to help our ASCT family in a simple way like this. After the caroling, everyone was truly overwhelmed with our performances and the guests bought many cards! We raised PhP12,600 (£185) in this day. We went home with a smile on our faces and truly proud of our achievements.



***ASCT children with Sandy Perrin,
President of BWA in Manila.***



Here are a few ideas about how you can help us without it costing you a penny!

- ◆ We have an **ASCT Facebook page**. The link is on our website www.asct.org.uk. Each month we upload a short story from one of the ASCT children. Why not become a friend and pass it on to others. We are very keen to spread the news about ASCT to new supporters and grow our donor base.
- ◆ ASCT has registered with a website called everyclick. This site provides an excellent search engine. Our supporters can raise money for ASCT just by searching and shopping online through **www.everyclick.com**. Each month 50% of the site's gross revenue is allocated to charity. ASCT will receive a proportion of this revenue equivalent to our supporter's use of everyclick.com, relative to the supporters of the other listed charities. So why not save the website as one of your favourites!
- ◆ Could you give this newsletter to others? We are happy to send extra copies of the newsletter so if you know people who would be interested in our work why not give them a copy.
- ◆ We are very lucky that there are many groups and churches that support ASCT on a regular basis but we are always looking for other opportunities. Could your church, golf club, school or society support us? We can send you publicity material and our DVD.
- ◆ Would you like an ASCT representative to give a talk to a group? If you live within a reasonable distance of Camberley, Surrey, we are very willing to give a talk about our work.

Would you like to sponsor?

We look after almost 100 children in our Grapevine and Mango Tree House projects, all of these children have individual sponsors. We are now looking to expand our sponsorship programme to give more people the opportunity to sponsor. So if you would like to sponsor any of the items below please phone and speak to Alison on 01276 707633.

Suggested donation per month

A class of children at Cashew Tree School	£ 50
A week's wages for one of our Cashew Tree School Teachers	£ 35
The cost of our transport for the month at Cashew	£ 30
A week's wages for a Grapevine social worker.	£ 40
Vitamin supplies for a month	£ 10

What sponsorship means.

Sarah Sherriff sponsors Mercy, one of our Mango students. She has seen first hand how communication from the UK is so important to the children we support:

For the last 4 and a half years my husband and I have been sponsoring a gorgeous little girl who has brought so much to our family. We have built up a relationship with her through the monthly letters that we write to her. She then replies and often sends the most beautifully created cards and letters. In February of 2010 I had the chance to meet her at Mango and the first thing she did was to approach me with every single letter I had written to her. I was stunned and delighted that she had seen fit to keep my "ramblings" and it made me realize there and then just how much they treasure letters from their sponsors. I write mine at the beginning of the month so I don't forget. Sometimes I wonder what I can tell her because my life and hers are poles apart but I send postcards from any day trips or family visits in other parts of the country. I send photos from time to time. Most recently I sent her a beautiful picture of a snow covered wood local to my home. Another visitor to Mango told me of an occasion when she stepped into the house of a grapevine student and in the eaves of the shack, covered in plastic were the child's school



Sarah and Mercy.

books and letters from her sponsor. Again this illustrates the importance of these simple communications and the impact they have on these young people. I would ask you if you don't already then please would you consider taking 5 minutes to show the child that you sponsor that you really care.



School supplies being handed out to some of our Grapevine students.

Many thanks to everyone who took part in our alternative Christmas scheme. As with past years you have been incredibly generous and we raised £1,655. This allowed us to buy 26 blankets, 23 sets of clothes, 20 sets of shoes as well as school supplies, vitamins and food. So on behalf of the children and their families thank you, you made a real difference to their Christmas.

A message from Nicky—ASCT trustee

It is hard to believe that this time last year I was getting prepared for the Fleet Half Marathon with the view to raising funds to travel out to the Philippines with the FUNKY group to help re-paint Cashew School! I enjoy running and often run the Fleet Half Marathon as a challenge to keep up the training year round. However, I rarely run to raise money and so actually running with the thought in the back of your mind that it really is important to finish this race because of all the sponsorship riding on it gives it a completely different edge! Well I must have enjoyed the challenge because yet again I (and David Regan my fellow ASCT trustee, FUNKY member and also my fiancée!) am putting on my running shoes to raise money for ASCT. If you would like to sponsor David or me please contact Alison In the office.



Nicky running last years Fleet half marathon in aid of ASCT.

ASCT QUIZ NIGHT

**JOIN US ON SATURDAY 7TH MAY AT 7PM
AT ST PAUL'S CHURCH CAMBERLEY**



TICKETS COST £10 WHICH INCLUDES A FISH SUPPER. COME ALONG WITH A GROUP OF FRIENDS UP TO 6 IN A TEAM DON'T WORRY IF YOU CAN'T MAKE UP A SIX JUST JOIN UP WITH OTHERS ON THE NIGHT.

Tickets are available from the ASCT office

Patrons:

The Right Honourable Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Education and MP for Surrey Heath

The Right Revd Christopher Hill, The Bishop of Guildford

ASCT

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